

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08
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R 201804Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6922
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 05054

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ENRG, EAID, ETRD, MNUC, TECH, PARM, GW, BR
SUBJECT: GEISEL VISIT TO THE FRG

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 1990; (B) BONN 4549; (C) BONN 4747;
(D) BONN 4450; (E) USBER 562; (F) BONN 4308;
(G) BRASILIA 1769; (H) THE HAGUE 1119;

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(I) BRASILIA 1717 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FROM THE GERMAN POINT OF VIEW, THE GEISEL
VISIT TO BONN HIGHLIGHTED THREE MAIN AREAS: IT
REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF BILATERAL TIES IN THE
ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL SPHERES; IT
EMPHASIZED THE GERMAN ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA; AND

FINALLY, IT GAVE A BOOST TO BRAZIL'S ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS. THE BRAZILIANS WERE ANXIOUS TO EMPHASIZE THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE FRG, AN HONOR THE GERMANS ACCEPTED BUT TRIED TO PLAY DOWN. WHILE THE US WAS HARDLY MENTIONED BY NAME THROUGHOUT THE VISIT (IN SPITE OF BRAZILIAN PRESS COMMENTARY TO THE CONTRARY,) WHEN THE SUBJECT DID COME UP, GEISEL REFERRED SIMPLY TO MAINTAINING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH NUCLEAR COOPERATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE 1975 NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT GEISEL'S VISIT TO GERMANY MARCH 6-10 WAS THE FIRST VISIT OF A BRAZILIAN HEAD OF STATE TO GERMANY SINCE EMPEROR PEDRO II VISITED BERLIN IN 1877. EMPEROR PEDRO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR PERSONS; IN CONTRAST, GEISEL TRAVELED WITH AN ENTOURAGE OF OVER 250. DURING THE FIVE DAYS HE WAS IN THE FRG, GEISEL TRAVELED TO BERLIN, VISITED THE REACTOR SITES OF JUELICH AND KARLSRUHE, AND MET WITH VIRTUALLY ALL FRG LEADERS OF NOTE, INCLUDING PRESIDENT SCHEEL, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ECONOMICS, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, FINANCE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS WELL AS WITH THE PRINCIPAL PARTY LEADERS. HE ALSO HELD INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMAN INDUSTRY.

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2. REPORTING ON THE GEISEL VISIT HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE FROM BOTH BRASILIA AND BONN, AND AS BOTH SIDES HAVE A CHANCE TO DIGEST THE SUBSTANCE OF THE VISIT, MORE WILL CERTAINLY BE FORTHCOMING. WE WERE BRIEFED ON THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE VISIT BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (HOFF). THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THOSE POINTS NOT ALREADY COVERED IN DETAIL IN PREVIOUS REPORTS.

3. JOINT DECLARATION: ON MARCH 10, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT GEISEL SIGNED A JOINT DECLARATION EVALUATING AND SETTING FORTH GOALS FOR FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR THE FULL TEXT OF THE DECLARATION.) THE BRAZILIANS HAD PRESSED HARD FOR A FORMAL TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH THE GERMAN SIDE WAS DISINCLINED TO SUPPORT. ACCORDING TO HOFF, THE GERMAN SIDE ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO NEGOTIATE SUCH A TREATY. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, THE FRG WAS WARY OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS OF SIGNING SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH A COUNTRY VIEWED IN SOME GERMAN POLITICAL CIRCLES AS A FASCIST DICTATORSHIP. (COMMENT:

ALTHOUGH HOFF CLAIMED IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN THESE
TERMS, WE SUSPECT THAT THE POSSIBLE US REACTION WAS AN
IMPORTANT FACTOR BEHIND GERMAN RELUCTANCE. END
COMMENT.)

THE JOINT DECLARATION COMMITTED BOTH SIDES INTER ALIA
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-- CONTINUE HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES AND
CONSULTATIONS,

-- INTENSIFY ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL
COOPERATION,

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-- CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER IN THE NUCLEAR
FIELD EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AND
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE CURRENT LEVEL
OF COOPERATION,

-- CONTINUE EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND AGREED THAT THE
AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT GOALS OF THE UN, AND

-- IMPROVE FURTHER COOPERATION BETWEEN DC'S
AND LDC'S.

ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS
WAS SUBJECT TO AN ESPECIALLY LONG NEGOTIATION PROCESS AND THE
ABOVE FORMULATION WAS AS FAR AS THE BRAZILIANS WOULD
GO. THE BRAZILIANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD PRESSED
FOR A MUCH MORE POSITIVE REFERENCE TO THE NEW
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO). THE BRAZILIANS
HAD PROPOSED AND THE GERMANS REJECTED THE CLAUSE IN
THE DECLARATION SUPPORTING A UN REORGANIZATION IN LINE
WITH THIRD WORLD DEMANDS.

4. NUCLEAR COOPERATION: THE JOINT DECLARATION NOTED
THAT BOTH SIDES WERE SATISFIED AT PROGRESS IN CARRYING
OUT THE 1975 NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT. THE SUBJECT WAS
RAISED IN PRESS QUESTIONS, AND GEISEL REPEATED THAT
HE AND SCHMIDT AGREED THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE
RESPECTED. "IT IS FUNCTIONING," HE SAID. ACCORDING
TO A FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACT WHO SAW THE MEMCON, THIS
SUBJECT DID COME UP DURING A SCHMIDT-GEISEL PRIVATE
TALK. GEISEL THANKED SCHMIDT FOR STANDING BY THE
AGREEMENT; SCHMIDT OBSERVED THAT THE FRG DID NOT
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RENEGE ON ITS WORD. THEY AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR
DISCUSSION OVER LUNCH FOLLOWING THE SESSIONS BUT WE
HAVE NOT YET HAD A READOUT OF THAT TALK.

NEW DUTCH DEMANDS FOR SAFEGUARDS IN THE URENCO
AGREEMENT RECEIVED LESS THAN FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM

BOTH SIDES. THE GERMANS TOLD THEIR GUESTS THAT THEY DID NOT AGREE WITH THE UNILATERALLY-IMPOSED DUTCH REQUIREMENTS. GEISEL, IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, NOTED THAT THE BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT WAS WITH URENCO, NOT WITH HOLLAND.

5. ECONOMIC RELATIONS (SEE ALSO REFTEL C): PRESIDENT GEISEL MET FOR SEVERAL HOURS WITH THE GERMAN FEDERATION OF INDUSTRY IN COLOGNE FOR A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF GERMAN INVESTMENT IN BRAZIL. THE GERMAN SIDE COMPLAINED OF DISCRIMINATION, LOSS OF PATENT RIGHTS AND A GENERALLY UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE. THE BRAZILIAN SIDE REPLIED WITH PROMISES TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE REGARDING IMPORT POLICIES GIVEN BRAZIL'S NOW FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE AND REITERATED ITS DESIRE FOR MORE GERMAN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY. THE BRAZILIANS WERE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN MORE PARTICIPATION IN BASIC RESEARCH AND SUGGESTED MORE JOINT VENTURES IN THIS REGARD. BRAZILIAN MINISTERS ACCOMPANYING GEISEL COMMENTED AFTER THE MEETING THAT THEY CONSIDERED IT VERY VALUABLE SINCE THEIR'S WAS A "FACT-FINDING MISSION" WITH THE PURPOSE OF PROBING FOR AREAS OF GREATER COOPERATION. NO AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED.

6. US-BRAZIL RELATIONS: ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACT, THERE WAS NO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OF BRAZILIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN FACT, THE SUBJECT AROSE ONLY IN THE DISCUSSION OF BRAZIL'S DESIRE FOR A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE FRG. WE ARE TOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GERMANS EMPHASIZED THAT THE US WAS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER FOR THE FRG AND THAT BONN WOULD DO NOTHING TO INTERFERE IN THE US'S RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL. GEISEL HAD NOTHING NEGATIVE TO SAY ABOUT THE US, NOTING HE WAS TRYING TO MAINTAIN "FRIENDLY RELATIONS." NEVERTHELESS, HIS AVOIDANCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH WASHINGTON WAS QUITE OBVIOUS. STATE SECRETARY HERMES EXPANDED ON HIS

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INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN BRAZIL (REFTEL I) AND CAUTIONED
THAT ONE SHOULD NOT EXAGGERATE THE FRG'S POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES VIS-A-VIS BRAZIL. THE FRG HAS
NEITHER THE DESIRE NOR THE CAPABILITY TO REPLACE THE
US, HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACT, GEISEL AND HIS TOP PEOPLE
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EXUDED SELF-CONFIDENCE AND CAPABILITY. AT THE SAME
TIME, THEY SEEMED AGGRESSIVELY INSECURE ABOUT ANYTHING
CONSTRUED AS EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN BRAZIL'S
AFFAIRS.

7. FRG-BRAZIL RELATIONS: OUR CONTACTS (HOFF AND
OTHERS) EMPHASIZED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE

EXCELLENT AND THAT INTENSIFIED ECONOMIC COOPERATION WOULD NATURALLY BE EXPECTED TO WIDEN AREAS FOR FUTURE POLITICAL COOPERATION. THEY CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, AGAINST AN EXAGGERATED EVALUATION OF THE BONN-BRASILIA CONNECTION. THEY NOTE THAT BONN WAS NOT GEISEL'S FIRST STOP IN EUROPE; GEISEL HAD ALREADY VISITED BOTH FRANCE AND THE UK BEFORE COMING TO THE FRG. THE GERMANS APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAZIL IN LATIN AMERICA AS WELL AS IN THE INTERNATIONAL THEATER BUT REALIZE THAT BRAZIL AND THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA ARE FAR FROM THE FOCUS OF THEIR TRUE NATIONAL INTERESTS. TO ILLUSTRATE THIS, OUR CONTACT OBSERVED THAT THE LEVEL OF POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE ATTENDANT TO THE VISIT WAS QUITE MODEST FROM THE FRG STANDPOINT. THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION HOSTED A GALA RECEPTION, ETC., WHILE THE GERMANS RECIPROCATED WITH SEVERAL LUNCHES AND DINNERS WITH MODEST GUEST LISTS.

7. INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS: GEISEL CRITICIZED SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND CALLED IT "UNACCEPTABLE." GEISEL NOTED THAT HE HAD FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL OF HIS NEIGHBORS.

8. NIEO: SCHMIDT AND GEISEL DISCUSSED THE NIEO AT LENGTH BUT DID SO IN RATHER CLICHED TERMS. THE BRAZILIANS WANTED THE SUBJECT INCLUDED IN THE JOINT CONFIDENTIAL

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DECLARATION -- A PROPOSITION THE GERMANS WOULD NOT ACCEPT. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT MADE THE PITCH TO GEISEL THAT THE LDC'S MUST TAKE THE ECONOMIC LIMITATIONS OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MORE CLOSELY INTO ACCOUNT. IN THIS, HE THOUGHT BRAZIL MIGHT BE A VERY GOOD BROKER BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.

9. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS: SECURITY WAS HEAVY EVERYWHERE GEISEL WENT. THE ONLY DEMONSTRATION WORTHY OF NOTE WAS ONE DURING THE GEISEL VISIT TO COLOGNE PROTESTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BRAZIL. THERE WERE A FEW ARRESTS BUT ALL WERE RELEASED SHORTLY AFTER GEISEL LEFT THE CITY.

10. SOVIET AND GDR PROTEST: PRIOR TO GEISEL'S ARRIVAL, THE GDR CALLED IN THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO TELL HIM THAT IT DID NOT APPROVE OF GEISEL'S PLANS TO VISIT WEST BERLIN. (ACCORDING TO THE FRG'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN EAST BERLIN, THE GDR ALSO PLANNED A PROTEST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BRASILIA.) AS REPORTED REFTEL E, THE SOVIETS ALSO REGISTERED A PROTEST ON MARCH 6. GEISEL

WENT TO BERLIN ANYWAY ON MARCH 9.

11. OTRAG: ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACT, THE SUBJECT
DID NOT ARISE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN05054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780123-0185
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780349/aaaabpap.tel
Line Count: 391
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c057f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRASILIA 1990, 78 BONN 4549, 78 BONN 4747, 78 BONN 4450, 78 USBERLIN 562, 78 BONN 4308
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3273287
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEISEL VISIT TO THE FRG
TAGS: PEPR, ENRG, EAID, ETRD, MNUC, TECH, PARM, GE, BR, (GEISEL, ERNESTO)
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c057f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014